

EXHIBIT 4

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

STEPHANIE WADSWORTH,
Individually and as Parent
and Legal Guardian of W.W,
K.W., G.W., and L.W., minor
children, and MATTHEW
WADSWORTH

Plaintiffs,)

vs.)

No. 2:23-cv-00118-NDF

WALMART, INC., and JETSON)
ELECTRIC BIKES, LLC,)

Defendants.)

DEPOSITION OF MICHAEL J. SCHULZ

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

Roseville, California

REPORTED BY: Joy E. Shure, CSR No. 3659

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1 you're deferring to BEAR on. At some point, you did an
2 analysis on fire spread, though; correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Okay. So where do you pick up from where they
5 drop off?

6 A. So they really pick up from where I drop off.
7 I identified the origin of the fire, and within that
8 origin I identified two potential sources of ignition --
9 well, three potential sources of ignition, and then they
10 picked up from there.

11 Q. Okay. What are the three potential sources of
12 ignition?

13 A. The hoverboard and any -- at the time, any
14 associated charging components, the electrical outlet
15 for Bedroom No. 4 on the wall behind the refrigerator,
16 and then thirdly, initially, I included the refrigerator
17 as a potential source because of its location on the
18 other side of that bedroom wall.

19 Q. Was the hoverboard charging at the time of the
20 accident -- of the fire?

21 A. There's testimony that it had been charging at
22 the end of the day's use and prior to the fire, but I
23 concur -- and I did not see and I concur that in the
24 photographs of the joint inspection of the evidence,
25 there were no electrical plugs in that outlet.

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1 Q. Okay. So based on your investigation, you've
2 concluded that the hoverboard was not charging at the
3 time of the fire; correct?

4 MR. AYALA: Form.

5 THE WITNESS: I don't see any evidence that
6 says that it was, but I can only speak to how I found
7 the electrical outlet post incident, and not having any
8 of the blade plates in there, that would seem to be
9 indicative that the charger was not plugged in at the
10 time of the fire, yes.

11 BY MR. LaFLAMME:

12 Q. Okay. So there were no blade plugs in the
13 outlet directly behind the hoverboard; correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. There was no wiring from any charging device
16 found by the hoverboard; correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And there was no indication on the female end
19 of the receptacle on the hoverboard that anything had
20 been plugged in at the time of the fire; correct?

21 A. So that's something I didn't -- I looked at
22 briefly in the field, but I didn't do a detailed
23 analysis of that, but I'm not aware of any evidence of
24 that.

25 Q. Okay. So based on the physical evidence,

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1 you're not aware of any evidence that would suggest this

2 hoverboard was plugged in at the time of the fire; true?

3 A. True. That's correct.

4 Q. And this fire was first identified by Gunner
5 and Layne Wadsworth; correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. And Gunner and Layne, we've referred to it as
8 Bedroom 4, that was their bedroom; correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. All right. And they were in a bunk bed that
11 abutted the wall and window for their bedroom?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And when they first woke up, that window had
14 already been breached or broken; correct?

15 MR. AYALA: Form.

16 THE WITNESS: I haven't read any testimony that
17 that's their testimony. There is testimony that Gunner
18 in particular recalls that there were shards of glass in
19 the bed.

20 BY MR. LaFLAMME:

21 Q. Okay. And that's when he woke up; correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And you've seen the interview with -- that
24 Detective Sheaman did with the Wadsworth boys; correct?

25 A. Correct.

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1 A. -- more precisely.

2 Q. Was there any arcing found in the house?

3 A. Not that I'm aware of; however, I did not
4 undertake to study that or not.

5 Q. Was there any arcing found anywhere on the
6 site?

7 A. There are reports and there are photographs of
8 what appear to be electrical anomalies on electrical
9 wiring in the shed located in front of the house
10 outdoors.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. But I wasn't present for that evidence
13 inspection and I've never had a close-up look at those
14 artifacts, and I would defer to the electrical engineers
15 that were present.

16 Q. Do you know if the electrical engineers that
17 were present for the Wadsworth family have been named as
18 experts in this case?

19 A. I'm not aware that they are, but I don't know
20 who all of the experts are in this case.

21 Q. So based on your involvement in the case, you
22 just don't have an opinion one way or the other as to
23 whether the anomalies, as I think you termed it, on the
24 wiring at the shed outside was indeed arcing; correct?

25 A. Correct.

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1 on with the wire coming out. That's not -- that wasn't
2 on the bedroom side of the wall. That's on the kitchen
3 side of the wall.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And I have a separate set of two pages of notes
6 where I showed those two photographs because I was
7 trying to decide, figure out what he was talking about,
8 and I figured it out.

9 Q. I was as well at one point.

10 A. Okay, yeah. And then the oval at the bottom of
11 this represents that the hoverboard is also located
12 there.

13 Q. So you would agree that the outlet that was on
14 the bedroom side, there is no wiring coming from that
15 outlet; correct?

16 A. No wire protruding from that.

17 Q. Okay. The wiring that is protruding from an
18 outlet in that area is the upper outlet that serviced
19 the refrigerator?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. So Detective Sheaman in his analysis when he
22 indicated that there was wiring from that outlet into
23 Bedroom No. 4 was incorrect?

24 A. That's incorrect.

25 And I think I called that set of notes

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1 something like Sheaman's observations of the outlets,
2 but yes, it's in the case notes folder and it's entitled
3 "Sheriffs Detective Sheaman Outlet Observations."

4 Q. Since I have it here, why don't we mark it and
5 we'll knock that one out.

6 A. Okay.

7 Q. I'll hand you what's been marked as Exhibit 99,
8 and this is from your expert file; correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 (The aforementioned document was
11 marked as Exhibit 99 for identification
12 and is attached hereto.)

13 BY MR. LaFLAMME:

14 Q. Okay. And there was an indication from
15 Detective Sheaman's report that there was wiring coming
16 out of an outlet in Bedroom 4; correct?

17 A. Both his report and as well in his discovery
18 deposition.

19 Q. And he had attributed that potentially to the
20 hoverboard being plugged in; correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Okay. Based on your analysis, it sounds like
23 you disagree with that; correct?

24 A. I totally disagree with that.

25 Q. All right. That the wiring that was in the

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1 receptacle that Detective Sheaman identified was wiring
2 that went to the refrigerator?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Okay. And that wiring was in the receptacle
5 that would have been facing the kitchen?

6 A. Correct, so it started on the opposite side of
7 this wall.

8 Q. And the receptacle that was in Bedroom
9 No. 4 doesn't have any wiring protruding from it?

10 A. Correct. And that's depicted on Page 2 of
11 Exhibit 99 and represented by my Photograph 160.

12 Q. All right. Back to your annotations here.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. So we're on Photo 159 of Exhibit 97.

15 A. Correct. So I'm indicating the circles and the
16 ovals are indicating the potential sources of ignition
17 that are located within the area of origin.

18 And then in the top third quadrant there's
19 damage to -- there's burning of this little section of
20 horizontal 2 x 4 which indicates that the burning is
21 moving from left to right on that little short section.
22 It's about four, six inches long.

23 Q. Okay. So you have three circles here. One is
24 the area of the hoverboard?

25 A. The lower oval at the bottom is the hoverboard.

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1 healthcare that they were dealing with to find out
2 whether or not it's okay to interview them, and you also
3 want the parents to feel okay with that.

4 So you don't want to put anybody in a position
5 that they're resentful for the interview, but I always
6 tried to do it as soon as possible.

7 Q. And you also identified in your report that
8 Detective Sheaman had incorrectly identified one of the
9 outlets as belonging to Bedroom 4 with wiring in it when
10 that outlet actually was in the kitchen?

11 MR. AYALA: Form.

12 THE WITNESS: Correct.

13 BY MR. LaFLAMME:

14 Q. Anything else with Detective Sheaman's
15 investigation that either you would have handled
16 differently or that you thought was incorrect?

17 A. Not that I can think of as I sit here, no.

18 Q. I'm going to show you what's been marked as
19 Exhibit 100 which are some diagrams that came from your
20 file, and these were put together by Mr. Birdsong;
21 correct?

22 A. Correct.

23 (The aforementioned document was
24 marked as Exhibit 100 for identification
25 and is attached hereto.)